CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1408
26 June 1996

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SRI LANKA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT CONCERNING THE LETTER OF 12 JUNE 1996 (CD/1407) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE 23 NEW MEMBERS ADMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE ON 17 JUNE 1996 BY ITS DECISION CD/1406

The delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to refer to letter dated 12 June 1996 (CD/1407 of 17 June) addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament by the 23 new members who were admitted to the Conference on 17 June 1996 by its decision contained in document CD/1406 of same date.

In this regard the delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to express its position as follows:

(a) Sri Lanka was among the majority of the members of the CD who supported the immediate and unconditional admission to the Conference, of the 23 States listed by the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament for the Issue of Expansion of its Membership contained in document CD/1214 dated 13 August 1993.

(b) The Decision CD/1406 was taken by the Conference on Disarmament by consensus on 17 June 1996 with no conditionality attached to the admission of new members by the Conference.

(c) The letter contained in document CD/1407 of 17 June 1996 has been submitted to the President of the Conference on Disarmament jointly by the new members voluntarily, in the exercise of their sovereign rights.

(d) The contents of the said letter in no way prevent the newly admitted members from exercising their rights as full and equal members of the Conference on Disarmament.

(e) The contents of the said letter do not constitute a precedent restricting the rights of Member States of the United Nations in seeking admission to the Conference on Disarmament or any other multilateral organization.

The delegation of Sri Lanka would appreciate it if this letter is circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): B.A.B. Goonetilleke
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.96-62382 (E)